development and the eradication of poverty are the first and over-riding priorities of the developing world.

The Rio Conference has seen a reaffirmation of national sovereignty over natural resources, a concept which some countries were suggesting to be modified, particularly in relation to forests, on global environmental considerations.

The Conference also led to some important statements and declarations, as given below :—

(1) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development outlining the main elements of sustainable development.

(2) Agenda 21, which outlines the programmes of action linking environment and developemnt.

(3) The Non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a global consensus on the management conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

(4) The Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity.

(b) India was associated with the preparatory process leading to the Conference in many ways, including the Vice Chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee. Besides, in April 1990, India hosted at the officials level, a meeting of select developing countries. This was followed by active participation in the Ministerial meeting held at Beijing in June, 1991 and the second Ministerial meeting held at Kuala Lumpur in April, 1992. India also hosted in April, 1992, the meeting of SAARC Ministers of Environment leading to a declaration which was placed before the UN Conference.

The Indian delegation to UNCED played an active role not only in the detailed negotiations on Agenda-21 but also in mobilising opinion, both among countries of the Group of 77 and others, in various important issues, particularly in regard to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Statement on Forests, leading to a broad consensus of views.

Progress in Cleaning of Yamuna River in Delhi

12. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has so far been made with regard to the cleaning of Yamuna river, especially in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A scheme for pollution abatement of river Yamuna, including works in Delhi is under formulation in consultation with the concerned agencies. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Illegal Nursing Homes in Delhi

13. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of illegal nursing homes are increasing in the capital ;

(b) if so, what is the number of such nursing homes during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Delhi Medical Association has granted recognition to a number of such nursing homes for registration, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have issued any direction in this regard;

(e) if so, the number of cases where the directive were flouted; and

(f) what action is being contemplated to check the growth of illegal nursing homes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per a survey conducted by the Delhi Administration recently, there are 316

unregistered Nursing Homes operating in Delhi, which have been instructed to apply for registration and many of them have complied with the instructions and submitted applications for registration to Delhi Administration.

(c) to (e) The Delhi Administration has informed that Delhi Medical Association has been issuing is own registration certificates to its members. The Directorate of Healh Services, Delhi Administration, has already conveyed to the Delhi Medical Association that the issuance of such registration certificates in contrary to the provision of Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1953.

(f) In order to check the growth of unregistered nursing homes in Delhi, the Delhi Administration has initiated steps to amend the Delhi Nursing Homes Act, 1953 and rules framed thereunder. The Nursing Homes are also being periodically inspected to see that the basic health care standard are maintained.

Vasectomy Cases

14. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that vasectomy cases are declining gradually;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) Among the total sterilisation acceptors, the proportion of female sterilisation has been steadily going up and that of male sterilisation is coming down since 1986-87.

To allay the various apprehensions and misconceptions pertaining to vasectomy, the Information, Education and Communication efforts for popularisation of the Family Welfare Programme highlight that vasectomy does not produce any harmful effect nor results in any physical weakness or loss of virility and that it is relatively simpler than tubectomy. In order to popularise vasectomy, the new method of "No-scalpel Vasectomy' has been recently introduced.

Controlling of Aids in Andhra Pradesh

15. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal regarding controlling AIDS in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the proposal;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No such proposal has been submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Improvement in Hospital Services in Andhra Pradesh

16. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to improve hospitals services at taluk and revenue divisional headquarters with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether World Bank has accepted the proposal;